

Euology for Jennifer Matthews

My name is _____, and it is my privilege to speak about my dear friend and colleague, Jennifer Matthews. Jennifer's contribution to the war on terror cannot be overstated. Jennifer was a pioneer in counter-terrorist targeting—which means she identified terrorists, located them, and then devised operations to disrupt them before they could attack. That's pretty much the best job in the world, and she loved it.

Jen made certain that she passed on what she knew to the next generation of CTC officers. She took great pride in leading the motley crew of brand new trainees stuffed into a tiny conference room who were responsible for CIA's first big terrorist capture after 9/11. I am certain those young trainees—who themselves have gone on to lead others—will never forget the lessons they learned from Jennifer, and nor should we.

- 1) The first lesson would be "Fear God, and Take Your Own Part." The highest compliment I could pay Jennifer as an intelligence officer is that she never hesitated to speak truth to power. Whether or not the decision ultimately went her way, she saluted and marched on, knowing she had her say and that she'd made a difference.
- 2) Jenny also inspires us to "Be Kind to Each Other." She burned calories to stay connected to her friends, and we often talked about how the best part of this job is the privilege of being part of a real band of brothers and sisters engaged in a common struggle. Losing our colleagues in Khowst reminds us that we must never take these precious friendships for granted.
- 3) Lastly, Jennifer would insist that I say "Work Hard, and Never Give Up." Jen and I had a wicked crush on Tommy Lee Jones, and we especially loved a movie he starred in called "No Country for Old Men." Tommy played an aging sheriff in a West Texas town who is demoralized by the escalating violence and evil around him which he cannot comprehend and feels powerless to prevent. Tommy's uncle, a retired sheriff's deputy, tells Tommy the awful truth: "You can't stop what's comin'. It ain't all waitin' on you. That's vanity." When we see Jennifer again—and we will—I hope that each of us can look her in the eye and say that, like her, when the goin' got tough, we worked harder. Because at the end of the day, you can't always stop comin'. But you always have to try.

God bless Jennifer Matthews and the women and men of CTC who will never forget her.